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CHORD-INATOR

BARBERSHOP
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MINNEAPOLIS
COMMODORES

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, CHAPTER
**** A CHAPTER WITH AN ENVIABLE PAST - AN UNBOUNDED FUTURE ****

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT

JANUARY 2018- VOL. 74- NO. 1

Gabriel recruits an understudy

Wile E Mennenga set to occupy the Second Baritone Chair

In the early morning of New Year's Day, **Dwight (Wile E) L. Mennenga**, the one and only baritone in the 1972 LOL District Champion *Roadrunners* quartet, slept peacefully away. His comedic repartee with straight-man and bass, **Norm Wolfe**, is legendary but belied his other remarkable musical achievements. He earned a BS Degree in Music Education at the University of Iowa in 1965 and later studied Music Arranging at the U of M-Mankato. *Wile E was an accomplished French-horn player* who during his Army-band service had the honor of playing at *President Eisenhower's* funeral. Wile E sang with the Minneapolis Commodores for many years and served as its interim director in the nineties. In the more recent past, he volunteered with, among others, the St. Louis Park Community Band, St. Anthony Civic Orchestra, the Minnetonka Concert Band, the Brooklyn Brass, and the Brooklyn United Methodist Church Choir. His wife, Judy, has asked that any memorials be sent to the Brooklyn United Methodist Church.

Old friend and fellow *Roadrunner*, **Norm Wolfe**, adds ... On July 12, 1972, **Ron Thomley**, **Ron Stong**, **Dwight Mennenga**, and I got together to form a quartet. We had no name, no uniforms, no money, and no idea if anyone would ever pay to hear us sing. Thomley suggested that we buy bowling shirts and find some patches that would solve the uniform/name problem. I went to a store and could find only three identical patches. They were round with a picture of a Roadrunner (Beep, beep!). Then

I found a square one with Wiley Coyote on it. I tossed them on a table and somebody asked, "Who's going to get the one with the coyote?" The three of us looked at Dwight, and from that moment on, he became known as Wile E.



Dwight L. Mennenga
1943 - 2018

Wile E became the center of our humorous routines. He was, as he put it, our "comedic genius." He did pratfalls during *Bundle of Old Love Letters* and fell off the stage during *For the Good Times*. He must have fallen off more than 100 stages. Once during a gig at the Carlton Celebrity Room, he fell off the stage and as the audience was roaring with laughter, he returned to say, "I think I just broke my arm." We finished the show THEN went to the hospital.

One of his more famous stunts was when he "mooned" the *Happiness Emporium* ... but you would have had to ask him about that. The Roadrunners would only have to hand

Wile E a "situation" and he would make it funny.

Quite often, performing with him was a lot like walking through a mine field. We had a pre-arranged routine where a lady from the audience would slap him on the face in response to a whisper in her ear. On one occasion a fairly hefty gal "decked" him and he saw double for the rest of the show. Ah, there's no business like show business. While on stage Wile E was a master comic. In private, he was a warm, selfless, and very loyal friend who will forever be missed.

Go to **Wile E**, Page 2, Column 1

President Blake Wanger's Inaugural Address

By Blake Wanger

The 2018 Season: Pitch Pipe Perfect

With the start of the new year, there is a lot of excitement now and on the horizon for the Minneapolis Commodores. As the new president of the chorus, I am really looking forward to the upcoming Commodores 2018 season. Some of the highlights for the year include:



Blake Wanger

Leadership: A new slate of board members has been sworn in. Some board members, such as Music VP **Carl Pinard**, Treasurer **John Carlotto**, Marketing VP **Steve Grady**, and Secretary **Bill Warp**, at-large board members, **Andy Richards**, **Andy Tate**, and **Arne Stefferud** will continue on in their roles. **Denny Maas** is now the Immediate Past President, and I have moved from Program VP to President. We also have some wonderful new faces joining us on the board. **Jim Norman** takes over as Membership VP, **Eric Nelsen** is now the Program VP and we have added **Paul Paddock** and **Dave Casperson** as at-large board members. We are also thrilled to have **Kim Ward** as our first non-Commodore board member. Kim is the wife of former Commodore **Bill**, so she is already part of the family. She brings a lot of valuable experience and is a passionate supporter of our chorus. She is going to be an excellent addition to the Board.

Wile E from Page 1

Editor's Note: Norm Wolf, the only Roadrunner bass, has been a great friend, supplying wonderful pieces for my Chord-Inators, particularly in the early years. I hope that he may get back in the habit of gracing these pages in the future with his tongue-in-cheek, whimsical, and often really heart-warming prose.



Norm Wolfe

Annual Show: Pitch Pipe Perfect Annual Show Chairman **Matt Richards** is building a show that is going to create a thrilling experience in the vein of singing competitions like *American Idol* and *The Sing Off*. The show will pit two choruses (each played by the entire Commodores chorus) and numerous quartets and VLQs in a friendly competition featuring songs from more than 10 different categories including *Barbershop Classics*, *Crooner Classics*, *Country*, *Rock*, *Disney*, *Broadway*, *Spiritual*, *Patriotic* and more. Who will win the competition? You'll have to come to Benson Great Hall at Bethel University at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 14 to find out. The show will also feature an amazing guest quartet, the 2015 International Quartet Champion, *Instant Classic*. It is sure to be another great show!

Music: As mentioned above, the Commodores repertoire is going to include music from across a wide range of categories for the 2018 season. This includes many of our old favorites from recent years like *Crazy Little Thing Called Love* and *Can You Feel The Love Tonight*, our current contest songs, *The Way You Look Tonight* and *This Could Be The Start of Something Big* and many new songs including *Take Me Home*, *Country Roads* and *I've Got the World on A String*. And of course, we will still be learning the music from our outstanding team of Director **Paul Wigley** and Assistant Directors **Dave Speidel**, and **Dave Bechard**. And a better trio of directors you would be hard pressed to find anywhere in the entire Society.

Performances: In addition to the annual show, we already have several other performances scheduled throughout the year, including the annual Como Park event, another visit to the Landscape Arboretum, our annual performance at a Twins game and performances at many local parks.

Rehearsal Changes: 2018 brings some small, but important changes to chapter meetings. This year, every rehearsal session will include five to ten minutes of work on a *Barberpole Cat* of the Month song. It is a chance for us to get back in touch with

the songs that are at the root of what we do, and which unite all members of the BHS by providing the opportunity to sing together, anytime, anywhere, with all other Barbershoppers. There will also be an emphasis placed on adding some more unique and fun activities to rehearsals, such as octet tag-in opportunities.

Attendance Policy: The Board and Music Committee have approved a new attendance policy that is already in place, and in effect until the annual show performance. The policy states that in order to be eligible to perform in the annual show, members must attend eight of the eleven rehearsals from January 2 through March 13, and all four rehearsals between March 20 and April 10, as well as the tech rehearsal on April 12. However, members who are unable to meet the attendance requirement can also qualify to sing on the show by singing their part in one or several show songs in a quartet with three other qualified singers under director Paul Wigley's watchful ear.

The songs will be preselected by the directorial team, and the quartet will sing in private with only the director present. The director will determine whether the singer has shown mastery of the material and is eligible to sing at the annual show. A singer who doesn't qualify on their first attempt may make subsequent attempts to qualify if they choose. This policy was designed to maintain the inclusive philosophy of the Commodores by giving every singer the opportunity to have a spot on the risers, while encouraging members not just to learn their music, but master it. A similar policy will likely be in place for the fall contest as well.

Altruism: In 2017, the Commodores were able to continue to help numerous people through organizations, including local food shelves and by donating thousands of dollars to our friends at *YouthLink MN* to help provide shelter, care and opportunities for at-risk youths. We plan to continue supporting EarthLink, sharing proceeds from our show and performances, and to continue our campaign for the ICA Food Shelf and other similar programs.

Go to **President**, Page3, Column 1

Thank You! Thank You!

By Denny Maas, Immediate Past President

I wanted to personally thank you on behalf of all the Minneapolis Commodores for your support in 2017 attending our performances and your voluntary donations to local food shelves. Your attendance, along with our other patrons at our Annual Spring Show over the last three years, has allowed us to share \$7000 of our profits with Youthlink MN. They have a facility in downtown Minneapolis that provides housing, meals, food, educational, and employment services to youth ages 16-23. Just like the Christmas stories, you have helped youth seeking safe shelter from a cold winter night with a room, food to eat, with people who support them.

Denny Maas

In 2015, we started to collect food shelf donations at some of our performances. Last year, all of our summer performances included food donation collections. Thanks to your generosity over the last three years, \$5522 and 1109 pounds of food were collected for the ICA, STEP, and YouthLink food shelves. Your support magnifies our efforts to reach out to those in need. You are the BEST!

The year 2017 has been one of the most heart wrenching and difficult years I can remember as our country

was ravaged by natural disasters and senseless human tragedy. It is our hope that by coming to our performances you found some joy for 90 minutes and your heart beat was a little lighter. At our concerts, you may have tried to answer the question regarding “*Who put the Bomp in the Bomp-de-Bomp-de-Bomp....*” Or you may have just been caught up in one of our romantic ballads remembering “*The Way You Look Tonight-with your cheeks so soft and your smile so warm.*” And, of course, who could forget everyone from 3 to 93 joining our fabulous *Village People* dancing to YMCA.

The year 2018 is now here and the Commodores have already been preparing music for our Spring Show – “Pitch Pipe Perfect” on April 14th at Bethel University. This is going to be another great show being produced by one of our most talented and creative young Commodores, Matt Richards. Please mark the date on your calendars. We are also working on the schedule for our 2018 Season and will let you know the dates once they have been scheduled.

One final request—we would love your help getting more people to our performances so we can grow our donations to Youthlink and the food shelves. We encourage you to invite someone who hasn’t been to a Commodore’s show, to go with you next time and share the harmonies.

Yours in Song,

Denny

President from Page 2

The Commodores Board also very recently approved a \$500 donation to help a St. Louis Park Middle School Chorus, directed by Great Northern Union director, **Doug Carnes**, as they raise funds to travel to the Midwinter Convention in California later this month. Altruism has always been and will continue to be a key focus of the Commodores mission.

In Conclusion: The 2018 season is going to be full of exciting changes and wonderful new opportunities for the Minneapolis Commodores, as well as opportunities for the our members to do a lot of good for oth-

ers. As the members in attendance heard at my swearing in during our chapter meeting, what inspires me most about the Minneapolis Commodores is our unwavering commitment to harmony—in our music, within our chorus, among all of the members and chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society, and between our chapter and the other organizations we support. It is a privilege and an honor to serve as President of the Minneapolis Commodores and I can’t wait to see where the 2018 season takes us.



The Road Ahead

By Paul Wigley, Director

The beginning of a new calendar year is always exciting. First of all, there is still the warm glow of the holiday season and fond memories of times spent with friends and family. The new year also brings on a bit of a *re-set* and gives us a chance to redefine goals, and to set new personal ambitions.

The year 2018 promises to be a terrific year for the Minneapolis Commodores! We have another incredibly creative annual show coming up in April! (With one of the very finest quartets currently singing in the Barbershop Harmony Society as our guests.) We already have some great summer-performance venues lined up—some of our favorite spots plus some new places we have not sung in before! Contests, quartet activities, social events, and much more will guarantee that 2018 will be unforgettable!

I have two personal *Commodore* resolutions for the New Year. I have shared both of them with you, but I want to reiterate what they are. My first goal is to bring at least one new member into the Commodores. I encourage/challenge you all to join me in the same goal. The *circle of life* of organizations such as the Commodores consists of men leaving us (for a multitude of reasons) and men eagerly joining us that are ready to continue the successful legacy of the our chapter. Look for these potential new **singers**/members (Note: I did highlight ‘singers’!) in all walks of your life. As recently quoted: *Everybody loves Barbershop ... some just don’t know it yet!* We all have an obligation to make a positive contribution to *our* special circle of life, that is, the continuing recruitment of new Commodores.

My second resolution is to improve every member’s individual vocal technique as a singer. The music team *Go to Wigley, Page 4, Column 3*



Paul Wigley

**Minneapolis, Minn. Chapter
Land O'Lakes District, BHS
Meetings every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
House of Prayer Lutheran Church
7625 Chicago Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
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Marketing/PR VP.....Steve Grady....952/334-7500
VP Music /Perform... Carl Pinard 612/927-9363
VP Membership.....Jim Norman 612/242-9330
Program VP.....Eric Nelson 612/47-2380
Secretary.....Bill Warp 763/531-2290
TreasurerJohn Carlotto 952/925-0886

Board Members

Through 2018

Andy Cook.....651/688-6459
Andy Richards.....651/639-9312
Arne Stefferud.....651/772-4367

Through 2018/19

Dave Casperson.....651/432-4922
Paul Paddock.....757/784-6440
Kim Ward (Community Rep.).....763/413-9273

Directors

Director.....Paul Wigley
Assistant Directors: Gary Jacobson (on leave),
Davie Speidel, Dave Bechard

Section Leaders

Tenor Section LeaderRollie Neve
Lead Section Leader.....**Vacant**
Assistant - Dan Smith

Bari Section LeadersDave Speidel
Assistant - Matt Richards

Bass Section Leaders.....Dave Casperson

Committee Chairmen

Altruistic Programs Chairman.....Denny Maas
Audio/Visual Mgr.....Kirk Douglas
2016 Show Chairman.....Dave Speidel
2017 Show Chairman.....Dan Cole
2018 Show Chairman.....Matt Richards
Afterglow Chairman.....Andy Richards
Attendance/Sgt.-at-Arms.....**Vacant**
BOTY Party Chairman.....Mark Ortenburger
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Librarian.....Carl Pinard

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Quartet Promotion.....Gary Jacobson

Riser Boss(temp).....Dan Cole

Roster (pending)Andy Richards

Singing Valentines.....Neal Mortenson

Sunshine.....Mark Bloomquist

Swipe EditorBill Warp

Tickets/A-Commodore President.....Diana Pinard

Transportation Mgr.....Dick Hartmann

Uniform Committee Chairman.....**Vacant**

Happy Birthday

01/15 Bill Warp
01/23 Candice Hojan
01/26 Shirley Retter
01/27 Karen Richards
02/04 Ray Ensrud
20/06 Martha Smalley*
20/06 Judy Windey
02/07 Paul Paddock
02/07 Karen Wentworth
02/08 Sherry Machen Ostergaard
02/08 Glenn Retter
* Commodore South

Happy Anniversary

01/22 Bob & Sherry Machen Ostergaard

Note: If your birthday or anniversary date is missing from the lists, please let your humble Editor know.



December reenlistments

Anthony Lapakko.....4 yrs.
Mike Hojan.....12 yrs.
Dean Lambert.....12 yrs.
Bryan Langren.....12 yrs.
Robert Duncan.....12 yrs.
Bill Warp.....14 yrs.
Dan Williams.....15 yrs.
Chuck Gribble.....16 yrs.
Jim Ostrander.....29 yrs.
Denny Rolloff.....35 yrs.
Carl Pinard.....36 yrs.
Paul Wigley.....39 yrs.
Harlan Mellem.....40 yrs.
Ray Ensrud.....41 yrs.
James Jorgensen.....45 yrs.
Roger Meyer.....45 yrs.
Dan Slattery.....48 yrs.
Bill Shaw Jr.....54 yrs.
Randy Klopfleisch.....57 yrs.
Doug Miller.....59 yrs.
Thurman Slack.....59 yrs.
Bob Spong.....61 yrs.

Wigley from Page 3

has talked about changing the warmup format a bit, in order to make it more of a class voice lesson. Every week my goal is to give all of you a new piece of vocal technique that you can apply to your individual voice. I am completely aware that voices are as varied as fingerprints, but we will try to give you tools for vocal improvement that are basic to all singers, and we will constantly reinforce those tools and techniques. This is exciting to me personally, because it will undoubtedly improve everyone's personal enjoyment of singing, confidence as a singer, and collectively improve the consistency and quality of the sound of the Minneapolis Commodores. The oldest cliché in the book is "You're only as strong as your weakest link"... there will be no weak links in our chorus!

Let's all look forward to a year of success, enjoyment, fulfillment, and making that connection with each other that can only be made by singing together.

It IS terrific to be a Commodore!

Singing Valentines

Another great fund-raising opportunity for the Commodores is fast approaching on Wednesday, February 14th, Valentines Day—a chance for quartets to spread love and to enjoy seeing the happiness a little song or two can make for someone's special person (while adding to the chapter treasury).

The message needs to get out that we are in the singing-for-sweeties business again this year. So, start using our newly-started Twitter account, Facebook, your e-mail, and anything else you can use to spread the word. Flyers and all instructions will be available, so register your quartet with **Dan Slattery** or **Neal Mortenson** and expect to have the best singing time of your Commodores life.

Harvey Weiss



**Capital "B" in
Barbershop?
Why not?**

Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, *Bantered Baritone*

Months ago, no, make that a couple of years ago or so. Or, time is elusive, particularly as we age. And I am too lazy to look back to the milestone to which I refer. Maybe it was two dog years ago I last wrote about **Rollie Neve** and poked at our usual fun exchanges

Often, I could find something to pick at about the **Four Seasons Quartet** in which he sang tenor. Never hindered much by truth (and notwithstanding what I say later below), I had obtained a self-proclaimed license to make up stories as I saw fit. Always based in some sort of way, on a real story, the versions wandered through a mish-mash of tangled fantasies of the mind. The banter, though, seemed to have the serious aim of injuring the other writer, especially when one or the other would not only stab with accuracy, but then twist the knife mercilessly. Could there be a real hidden hatred between the two?

I offer that nothing could be further from the truth. Or is it, "farther" from the truth?

Whichever, the playfulness between the barbs of Neve and my valiant, but often faint, returns were the backbone of many an article of mine. And then?

Well, Rollie's quartet disbanded after a very successful and long-winded (You know! Singers forge the wind into ever-rising harmonies) run and it meant the end of the repartee. All good things, as you well know, come to an end.



Jim Erickson

But even acrimonious retorts can come to an end, too. And that has happened between the Neve articles and those of yours truly. Are the sarcastic tales dead? If so, long live the sarcastic tales. (Now tell me, dear reader, does that make any sense at all?)

And I must mention that the esteemed Neve was not above releasing an occasional compliment from a grip he held so tightly. For instance, recently he telephoned me to tell a joke about the renowned art museum, the Louvre. I anticipated a rather



"artsy" joke, and he felt I would understand and appreciate the gist of it as he considered me to be, "culturally above the norm." That is a direct quote from Neve. I swear! And in accepting this compliment, I realize that some norms are higher than others, but I will take this as a really high one. Whatever he may have meant...

The late **Jim Richards** once described to my face, that my writing was the most "stream of consciousness" writing he had ever read. He did say it with a twinkle in his eye, but Jim was never far from the mark. I, however, would venture that a more accurate statement might be that my words are a "stream of unconsciousness." Nevertheless, this

article does have a purpose and point.

And that is? I have been a Commodore for many years. And over those years, I have seen, and been a part of, many versions of association and friendship with other members. Some have come and gone, others have existed from the very beginning and still do. But the camaraderie of the members is something special. I don't know if any research has ever been done on whether those who sing also make for good male companions when pursuing an endeavor like singing in a big chorus, or a quartet, or some version thereof. But I think there is a definite link.

With differing schedules, work, winter or summer location changes, and the like, sometimes we have to reinvigorate some of those earlier relationships along with engaging new ones, with the ever-changing personnel of a choral organization such as ours. But that is kind of what it's all about.

Do I miss the Neve banter? I wouldn't give Rollie the satisfaction of knowing that I do, but I will recognize his many contributions to the chorus and to the *Chord-Inator*, by inducting him into the *Order of the Georgia Grind Outhouse* (OGGO). You may think this is an honor beyond what he deserves, but I would defend him saying... Oh, you make up how I might defend him as I am at a loss. Enjoy the award, Rolle, once you receive it at the upcoming ceremony. You can mark the ceremonial day easily as it is the same day as the tomorrow in "Free Beer Tomorrow!"

In closing, guard the truth. Anything else will serve no one. And please be present. Know where you are and what is going on around you. In my research on the origins of the Georgia Grind, I have to deal with all sorts of shady *Go to Grind*, Page 6, Column 1

Days of Yore SPEBSQSA Parades of Quartets

By Dr. Bob Dykstra, Curmudgeon-at-Large

Last month my Chord-Inator musings discussed the widespread popularity of quartets in the 1950s. That popularity was quite evident in Barbershop chapter shows of the time which inevitably were called (with good reason) parades of quartets.

Today's Barbershop shows usually feature the chapter chorus and a few of its quartets (if they have any) and at best one outside quartet of note. That's far different from chapter shows of fifty or sixty years ago. I recently came across a large number of chapter show programs from the 1950s and 1960s on which my old quartet, the *Hut Four*, performed.

All annual shows at the time featured multiple visiting quartets in addition to those from the host chapter. Minneapolis Chapter shows held at Northrop Auditorium during this time period, for example, always brought in at least three well-known visiting quartets even though the chapter itself had a number of excellent show quartets.

In fact, it was required to do so by the contract between the Minneapolis Chapter and the University of Minnesota Department of Concerts and Lectures, under whose auspices the shows were held at Northrop. In 1957, for example, the Minneapolis chapter brought in the *Hawkeye Four* from Des Moines, the *Kord Kings* from Oak Park, Illinois, and the *Mid-States Four* from Chicago. They also brought in a banjo act called the *Banjo-Tainers* from Muskegon, Michigan. Chapter quartets who performed on

the show included the *Lake-Aires*, *Harmonians*, the *Zuhrah Shrine Quartet*, the *Aqua-Tones*, the *Hut Four*, and the *Atomic Bums*. The chorus sang a few songs as well but it's no wonder shows at the time were called Parades of Quartets.

In going through the old show programs I had collected 50-60 years ago, two especially caught my attention. On March 19th, 1960, the *Hut Four* performed on the Pittsburgh annual show held at the Carnegie Music Hall. The chapter chorus performed to open the show, then turned it over to quartets. And how's this for a line-up of quartets? Pittsburgh Chapter quartets who performed included three district medalists, (*Steel City Four*, *Selectones*, *Westinghouse Quartet*), as well as the soon-to-be International Quartet gold medalists, the *Town and Country Four*, and the 1948 International Quartet Champions, the *Pittsburghers*, one of the most popular show quartets in the Society at the time.

Despite this powerful line-up of local quartets the chapter saw fit to bring in the *Hut Four* from Minneapolis (international semi-finalists in 1958 and 1959), the *Short Cuts* from Miami (1959 fifth place International medalists), and the *Sweet and Lows* from Berwyn, Illinois (1958 Sweet Adeline International Quartet Champions) to round out the show.

The other program that caught my eye was from the Pasadena, California, shows that were held on March

10th and 11th, 1961. First off, the MC was the well-known television personality, **Art Baker**, who was a member of the Pasadena Chapter. Quartets included: (1) The *Saints* from California who then were the current 5th place medalists of the Society; (2) the *Baytown Four*, another California quartet who, at the time, were the Society's 4th place medalists; (3) the *Gala Lads* from California who were to win the gold at the 1962 International convention; (4) The *Hut Four* from Minneapolis, who were International semi-finalists; (5) the *Evans Quartet* from Utah who were the reigning International champions; and (6) the *Buffalo Bills*, who were International gold medalists in 1950 and stars of the Broadway musical and soon-to-be popular movie, *Music Man*.

As if that weren't enough of a show, at the last minute the chapter brought in the *Osmond Brothers* who were 12, 10, 8, and 6 years old and soon were to become regular cast members of the *Andy Williams* television show. And then to add excitement to their presentation, **Donny Osmond**, who had just turned 4, came out on stage to sing a number with his brothers. What a show! And again, clearly a Parade of Quartets.

I don't remember.....but I'll bet those two shows went on for hours. Come to think of it, I don't think three-hour shows were that rare way back then. After all, as I've said many times, Americans in the 1950s and 1960s loved quartet-singing.

Grind from Page 5

characters in places that can only be imagined. Kind of **Indiana Jones** like ... it's the price I have to pay. In the meantime, hold fast to that which is good and the truth.



Bob Dykstra



At the January 2 Chapter meeting the out-going President Denny Maas (rt.) presents President-elect Blake Wanger (left) the accoutrements of the office.

Staff Photo

The Weiss Report

By Harvey Weiss

On Thursday, January 4th, 16 (sixteen) Commodores and their wives, attended the blockbuster show at the Old Log Theater entitled, "Life Could Be A Dream". It is a song-filled musical about a quartet of young singers getting ready to compete in a contest, singing all the great tunes from the 60's. Sha-Boom was their opening number and others included, Duke of Earl, Fools Fall In Love, and another dozen and half songs.

The Commodores' doo wop quartet, BOMP, and their back up's, enjoyed fine food and singing at Maynard's in Excelsior prior to the show. The singing continued during the intermission and after the performance out in the foyer. It was GREAT to be a COMMODORE!

The show is lots of fun and the singing is just great. I encourage you to spend a night out there and really get into the groove of the times. Harvey Weiss



Speaking of Pictures



Assistant Director David Bechard wanted to acknowledge the hard work *Just One More* by presenting them with certificates of appreciation on January 9. Matt Richards, Ben Wanggaard, Tony Lapakko, and Nate Weimer (left to rt.) seem pleased at the recognition.



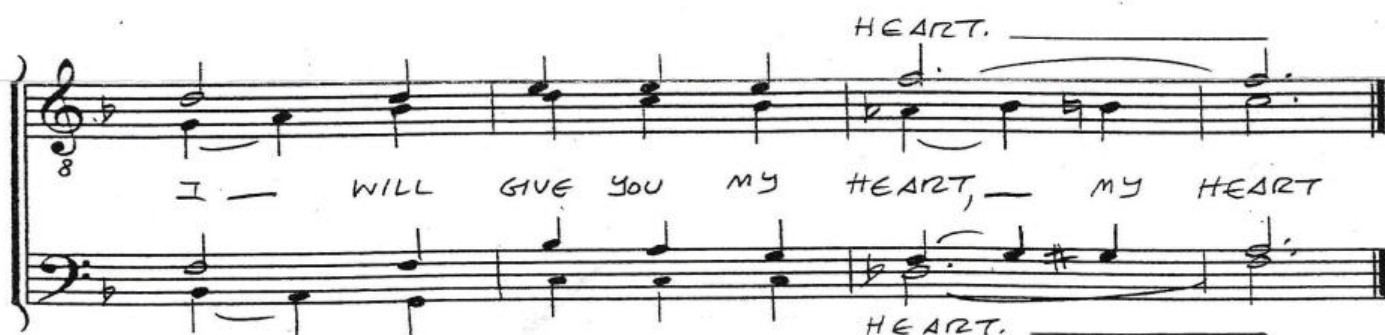
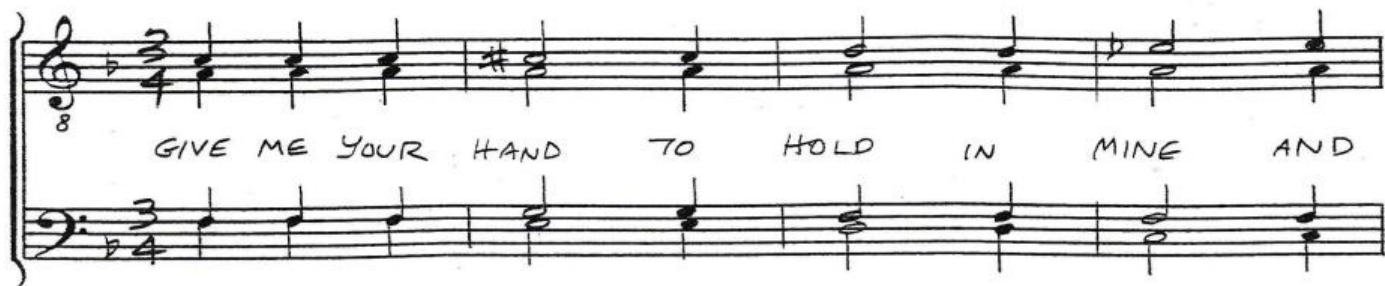
Members of the 2018 Minneapolis Chapter Board posing behind President Blake Wanger (Front center) at the January 9 chapter meeting, from the left Arne Stefferud, John Carlotto, Andy Richards, Wanger, Denny Maas, Andy Cook, Bill Warp, Steve Brady, Carl Pinard, and Jim Norman. Missing: Dave Casperson, Eric Nelson, Paul Paddock, and Kim Ward.



Jim Richards

Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy #14

Give Me Your Hand...
A Burt Szabo original



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All copy and photos herein without a byline, as well as those opinions and commentaries under his byline, are the sole responsibility of the *Chord-Inator* Editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Minneapolis Chapter Board or its officers.

Chapter Quartets

BOMP

Dan Cole.....612/940-4554

CHORD SMASH

James Estes.....612/237-3234

EASY LISTENIN'

Dan Slattery.....651/747-6384

HOT COMMODITY

Dave Speidel.....612/437-4325

JUST ONE MORE

Nate Weimer.....316/204-8756

RING IT ON

Andy Richards.....651/639-9312

RIVER CITY QUARTET

John Chouinard.....651/343-4145

MINNESOTA GO-4's

Harvey Weiss.....763/439-4447

RANDOM SAMPLE

Darrell Egertson.....952/943-8737

SWYPE

Mark Bloomquist.....952/541-0232

SOUNDS of RENOWN (VLQ)

Mark Ortenburger.....952/942-8382

THE SHOES

Andy Richards.....651/639-9312

CHORD-INATOR

1st Place

**2013 PROBE HARD-COPY
 INTERNATIONAL
 BULLETIN CONTEST**

**PROBE Hall of Honor
 Dr. Hardin Olson
 2016**

The *Chord-Inator* is available on the Minneapolis Chapter's website minneapoliscommodore.org starting with the January 2006 issue.



*Neither shared with the Girl
 Scouts nor dumped by the
 Sweet Adelines.*

Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To:

LOOKING AHEAD

- March 24, Saturday, **10,000 Lakes Division Contest, Stillwater**
- April 12, Thursday, **Tech Rehearsal, Bethel University**
- April 14, **Annual Show, Bethel University**
- June 24, Sunday, **Arboretum Performance**
- July 10, Tuesday, **Area Chapter Singout, Como Park**

District Level

- October 26-27, Fri/Sat, **LOL District Convention**

International Level

- January 16-21, 2018, **Midwinter Convention, Orange County, California**

2017 Barbershopper Of The Year **Dan True**

**Commodores and others *
 contributing to this issue.**

Bob Dykstra
 Jim Erickson
 Denny Maas
 Blake Wanger
 Hardin Olson
 Paul Wigley
 Harvey Weiss
 Norm Wolfe
 Burt Szabo*



**CHORD-INATOR
 MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES
 Minneapolis Chapter of SPEBSQSA
 MEETING EVERY TUES -7:00 p.m.
 House of Prayer Lutheran Church
 7625 Chicago Ave. S.
 Richfield, MN 55423
GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME**